

Castro Claims CIA Tried to Blow Up Mines

CPYRGHT

By United Press International

CPYRGHT

HAVANA.

The Castro regime claimed yesterday to have smashed a "U. S. Central Intelligence Agency plot" to blow up copper and nickel mines in Pinar del Rio and Oriente Provinces.

A government statement said secret police captured Miguel Angel Orozco Crespo, described as "the CIA's main leader in Cuba," Nov. 2 in Pinar del Rio. He was identified as a former Cuban Army career officer.

An unidentified embassy was accused of complicity in the sabotage plot. The government said it permitted communications equipment for the saboteurs to be sent into Cuba in its diplomatic pouches.

Also captured with Mr. Orozco was a man identified as Pedro Vera Ortiz. Government newspapers printed the names of 39 other persons alleged to belong to the group.

The reported 12-man sabotage group led by Mr. Orozco was said to have landed on

Cuba's north coast last Oct. 19 and 20, which would indicate it operated successfully for nearly two weeks before Mr. Orozco's capture Nov. 2.

[In Washington, a spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency refused to comment. He said this refusal was in accordance with agency policy, the Associated Press reported.]

A government communique said Mr. Orozco "confessed" he had been sent into Cuba "by the CIA" for sabotage and espionage. Mr. Orozco was alleged to have said he and Mr. Vera landed in Cuba with 10 others.

According to the communique, the plot to blow up the formerly U. S.-owned Matahambre copper mines in Pinar del Rio was foiled when workers spotted explosives in two towers supporting a cable railway.

After sabotaging the Matahambre installation, the group planned to blow up the former U. S. government-owned Nicaro nickel mines in Oriente Province, at the

other end of the confession.

Mr. Orozco

that the U.

was a

later

shar

It

as

as

"phony invasion" of Nicaragua with exiles

clad as Castro troops to justify Nicaraguan

invocation of the Rio de Janeiro Mutual

Defense Pact and permit the U. S. to in-

vade Cuba.

Another alleged CIA "plot" was the "in-

vasion" of Cayo Romano, on the north

coast of Camaguey Province, and the es-

tablishment of a Cuban government-in-

arms which would be "recognized im-

mediately" by Washington.

The government statement said the CIA

had a special Cuba group in Miami headed

by a "Robert Wall," identified only as "a

close friend of Attorney-General Robert

Mines

CPYRGHT